

REMARKS

Applicants' representative wishes to thank Examiner Pedder for the courtesy extended during the personal interview conducted on February 15, 2005. A separate record of the substance of this interview is included in the remarks which follow.

Claims 1-2, 4-11, and 13-16 remain in this application, while claims 3, 12, and 17-20 are canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

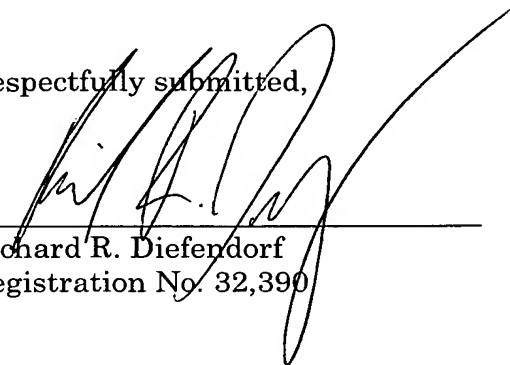
The cross-references provided by paragraph 2 of the specification are updated above.

Claim 1 is amended above in the manner discussed during the interview, now incorporates limitations previously appearing in claim 3, and now specifies that the receptacles are configured to abut corners of the roof elements. Claim 4 is also amended above for consistency. As is discussed, for example, in paragraph 8 of the specification and as was noted during the interview, such features facilitate manual insertion of the roof elements into the stowage space for those elements. It was argued during the interview that the Steyer-Daimler-Puch document and the Manko et al. patent discussed in section 3 on pages 2-3 of the Office Action, taken as a whole, do not suggest the features now reflected in claim 1. As tentatively agreed during the interview, claim 1 should now be patentable as a result of the amendments made. The rest of the claims remaining in this application depend on claim 1 and should also be patentable.

This application should now be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions after considering this Reply, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Date: March 10, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Richard R. Diefendorf, is written over a horizontal line.

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